FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JUNE 1985

Hostage Crisis

The French Embassy in Beirut has accepted Amal movement leader Nabih Birri's proposal that it receive the U.S. hostages, KUNA reported. Birri's suggestion, announced at a 26 June news conference reported by Beirut radio, is for the hostages to be transferred to a foreign embassy in West Beirut if the government of that embassy pledges not to release them before Israel frees the detainees in 'Atlit. If the United States does not accept this offer, Birri added, Amal proposes that the hostages be moved to a "fraternal or friendly" state like Syria or Iran, subject to the same conditions for their release. Two kidnapped French journalists will be released with the U.S. hostages when Israel releases its Lebanese detainees, he said. Birri also announced the release of one of the hostages on the advice of a medical report from the International Red Cross, which visited the hostages overnight. The Shi'ite leader described U.S. threats to close Beirut airport as "not serious," but he called on the United States to pledge that there will be "no aggression against innocent people" after the hostage crisis is settled, and to keep its fleet 12 miles away from the Lebanese coast.

Amal had earlier warned that it will return the hostages to the hijackers if the United States takes measures to close Beirut airport and blockade the country, Jerusalem radio reported. Meanwhile, Syria sent messages to Birri in an attempt to hasten the hostages' release, according to sources close to Amal cited by AFP. In Israel, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that his country will consider positively any U.S. request for Israeli participation in a blockade of Beirut Airport, Jerusalem radio reported, but senior political sources predicted that the United States will try to avoid any such cooperation with Israel and will attempt to seek a diplomatic solution in cooperation with Syria.

Iraq-Libya

Iraq broke diplomatic relations with Libya 26 June, announcing in an official statement carried by INA that it has withdrawn recognition of Libya as an Arab regime and as an Arab League member, and that it has decided to withdraw its diplomatic mission from Tripoli and to ask the Libyan mission to leave Baghdad.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes dealt "an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near Khark Island" at 2015 GMT 25 June, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement carried by INA.

Syria and the PNSF

Syria supports the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) and is working to strengthen its military capabilities, President Hafiz al-Asad told a PNSF delegation in remarks reported by Damascus radio. The Syrian leader stressed the importance of cohesion between the PNSF and Lebanese groups.

PLO Affairs; Arab Summit

A Jordanian-Palestinian delegation flew to Rome 25 June to begin a tour of Italy and France aimed at explaining the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Amman radio reported. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Baghdad the same day, INA noted, announcing earlier in remarks reported by Amman television that the PLO has been in constant contact with Jordan's King Husayn to provide the "appropriate atmosphere" for convening an Arab summit conference as soon as possible. However, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil reaffirmed Lebanon's opposition to a summit on the Palestinian camps issue during a conversation with the Moroccan ambassador reported by Beirut radio. Lebanon regards the camps issue as a purely internal affair, Al-Jumayyil stated, and it will only participate in a summit that holds a comprehensive discussion of the problems of the area, including the Lebanese problem. For Syria's part, Damascus radio denounced the proposed summit as an attempt to seek Arab backing for the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement. On the other hand, Riyadh radio welcomed the proposal for an emergency summit in a 24 June commentary.

Egypt

Mubarak Speech — Arab leaders must take a "courageous" stand and unite to "chase terrorism until it retreats and disappears," President Husni Mubarak asserted in a speech broadcast by Cairo radio. Egypt will not stand idly by in this respect, he said, but will "move to the forefront and take the initiative." Warning that there are forces which want to hurt Egypt by exploiting certain sects in the country, he said the Egyptian authorities will not be lenient in confronting any trend that seeks to forcibly impose its "ideas, whims, or schemes" on the people.

Sudan

A scheduled meeting between the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) high command and a special government delegation failed to materialize because the latter did not show up at the arranged time and place, an SPLA spokesman announced in a statement reported by the clandestine SPLA radio. The spokesman viewed the government's conduct as evidence of its lack of interest in any dialogue with the SPLA despite its talk of peace and negotiations. On the military situation in the south, the radio claimed that the SPLA destroyed two Nile steamers carrying government troops 23 June, and that SPLA units are on the verge of capturing Bor, a town in the southern Upper Nile area.

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Commentary Denounces Iranian 'Interference'

LD251953 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A BIA political commentator writes: In line with the interventionist and aggressive actions by the reactionary circles of the ruling regime in Iran against the DRA, that country recently acknowledged the bloody rifts between the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands and published an article that reveals the daily increasing interference of the reactionary rulers of Iran in the internal affairs of our country.

According to this report, a number of pseudo-religious leaders of Iran and the servant counterrevolutionary bands of Afghanistan, pursuing the instructions of Akhond [derogatory term] Montazeri in connection with the inevitable differences and squabbles between the criminal Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, after several unsuccessful and futile meetings and discussions about the differences, finally approved a so-called written undertaking and treaty in this regard.

This report, however, indicates that the reactionary and tyrannical circles ruling over Iran, which, notwithstanding their treacherous actions and sinister intensions regarding the export of what they call Islamic revolution to other countries, have been faced with ludicrous defeat in a destructive war with Iraq that is contrary to the demands and will of the persecuted people of Iran, and increases their shameless and notorious intervention and aggression in the internal affairs of the DRA from day to day.

Such a hue and cry shows that the differences existing among the servant bands linked to the Afghan counterrevolution are intensifying on a daily basis and that the architects of the so-called unity between these murderous and plundering groups, despite persistent and vain efforts, have never been able, and will never be able, to succeed in achieving these aims. This is dictated by the natural essence and character of the servant counterrevolutionary bands, who are tearing each other apart trying to get another morsel through theft, plunder and groveling before their aggressive masters. This will continue until the complete and decisive elimination of these plundering and ruffian bands. What was mentioned above, what is decadent and false, could not have any other destiny before the truth of the path of revolution of the people of Afghanistan.

Planning Committee Hears Economic Report

LD251845 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A broad meeting of the State Planning Committee activists was held today and attended by members of the State Planning Committee, responsible personnel of the planning departments of the ministry and the state departments.

At the beginning of the meeting, the basic report was read by Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee on the assessment of the result of the implementation of the 1363 [ended 20 March] socioeconomic development plan of the DRA, the fulfillment of the planner tasks of the ministries and departments for 1364 on the basis of the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee and valuable instructions of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, in the sphere of improving planning and the national economy.

In the basic report the attention of the participants was drawn to the principal of collective leadership in planning procedures in a completely democratic manner on the basis of instructions from the program of action of the PDPA. Discussions took place on failures, successes, and how to solve them.

Special measures were taken toward enhancing the level of information of the responsible officers and toward implementing the aims and tasks of the socioeconomic development plan for the year of 1364, considering the instructions in scientific methods of planning in the DRA.

A BIA correspondent reports that five workers of the State Planning Committee, on behalf of others, spoke about the basic report and expressed readiness to implement the adopted measures and to carry out of the tasks stated in the 1364 plan unconditionally.

At the end, Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, assessed the work of the meeting and issued special instructions on implementing the planned tasks for the year 1364 based on the orders of the party and state authorities toward improvement of planning matters; control over the implementation of planning indices; and control and supervision of projects, production, transport firms, and other services as well as in the sphere on national economy within the framework of a well-organized program.

At the end of the meeting the resolution regarding the draft and implementation of the 1364 socioeconomic development plan and the 5-year plan for 1365 and 1369 were read and approved unanimously.

Mujahidin Attack Soviet Convoy Near Barikowt

GF260612 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin destroyed 32 Soviet military vehicles during an attack which they launched on 12 June against a convoy carrying supplies to a camp belonging to the Soviet forces in the Barikowt area. This came in a report carried by the Mujahidin news agency.

The report says: The Soviet forces last week carried out heavy artillery shelling which resulted in the killing of more than 200 people, mostly women and children, in 1 day.

An Afghan mujahidin leader has stated that the mujahidin resistance movement is in urgent need of food and medicine as a result of recent Soviet attacks which have compelled at least 100,000 people to take shelter in caves.

Pakistan 'Showered' With U.S. Military Equipment

LD260735 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Kabul, June 25, BAKHTAR — The military regime of Ziaul Haq continues building up its military might. In 1984-85 it has spent 30,375 million rupees or a third of the country's annual budget on militarization.

The USA supplies Pakistan with F-16 fighter bombers. As a result of the 3.2 billion deal with the USA, Pakistan is being literally showered with various sophisticated materiel, including M-60 tanks, C-130 military transport planes, gen [as received] Cobra gunships, anti-tank missiles and Harpoon sea based missiles. Washington and Islamabad are interested in Pakistan's militarization.

In exchange for massive military and economic aid the USA wants Pakistan agreement to building and re-equipping US air and naval bases on its territory and granting operational rights to bases in Karachi, Peshawar, Gwadar as well as in Jiwani and Ormara harbours. In several areas, the Pentagon has started building Sikh separatists stations to collect intelligence information about India, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Pakistan has been included in the operational zone of the US Central Command which is in charge of the Rapid Deployment Force.

Arming Pakistan the USA urges unabashedly Islamabad to step up its anti-Soviet and anti-Indian drive and to back up on a larger scale counter-revolutionary gangs operating against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Over 350,000 troops are massed in areas bordering on India. Military air-fields, fortifications and strategic roads are being hurriedly constructed.

At special camps Pakistani secret services are training Sikh separatists.

Pakistan's line in regard to Afghanistan is even more aggressive. The Paksitani territory harbours more than 120 camps and centers where armed units of Afghan counterrevolutionaries are formed and trained in the Northwest Frontier Province and Baluchistan. They are setting up their military posts, ammunition depots, communication lines for troop-lifting, deploying US-made anti-aircraft systems, modernizing and are building airfields.

Pakistan is committing more often of late, military provocations against Afghanistan, shelling Afghan villages in border areas. The Pakistani Air Force regularly violates Afghanistan's air space, and Pakistani troops invade Afghanistan.

Airport Authority Institutes Security Measures

HK251343 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP) — The airport authority of India took unprecedented precautions today by directing all airports to maintain a maximum alert status and maintain extreme caution at cargo sheds, officials said. No unaccompanied baggage is to be loaded on any commercial aircraft and loading-unloading operations are to be carried out in the presence of at least one senior airport officer.

A plan is being formulated to give cargo more than 24 hours of "cooling time" on the ground to try to avoid explosions in midair, the authorities said.

Various airport establishments have been asked to screen employees for security checks. Casual workers and employees will not be allowed into security areas without written orders from superiors.

Air India has directed other airlines that operate in collaboration with it to be absolutely sure of the safety of cargo before loading.

Highly placed security sources here said that metal and explosive detectors may be used for random searches and body checks of passengers on board. Yesterday Air India managing director Dhruv Bose ruled out the use of commandos on board flying aircraft.

Air India authorities said that all catering equipment as well as food would be kept in storage under guard and loaded aboard only after a double check.

Special security measures have been introduced at the government owned Centaur Hotel, which is one of the major domestic inflight caterers. Privately run five star hotels which also cater flights have been ordered to check every item before loading, the authorities said.

The security measures were tightened following the crash of an Air India flight with 329 people into the Atlantic Sunday, possibly due to an explosion, and a Sikh youth's attempt to enter an Indian airlines domestic flight at Indore, Madhya Pradesh State, with a loaded .32 calibre pistol yesterday, an official spokesman said. Authorities are repeatedly checking identity cards and doing body checks of passengers and visitors at the local Palam Airport in New Delhi.

Officials said all threatening telephone calls were being taken seriously and that one was made yesterday, causing a nearly eight hour delay of Air India flight 116 from New Delhi which was to carry relatives of the deceased of the Atlantic crash.

Air India has decided to stop its services to Canada with immediate effect, an airline spokesman said today. The spokesman said the decision was taken partly because Sunday's crash left the airline with only nine jumbo jets, seven of which are committed on the New Delhi-New York route and the remaining are rotated on different routes in Asia and Africa.

Intelligence sources here said two Sikhs, Anand Singh and Bhud Lal Singh, wanted by Canadian police in connection with the crash, had flown at least four times between Vancouver and Toronto prior to Sunday's crash. The sources, who requested anonymity, said intelligences agencies had received reports indicating the two had made the flights. They said the clean shaven Sikhs had close contacts in Punjab as well as in New Delhi and that the reason for their travelling between the two Canadian cities was not known.

Akali Dal's Longowal Shares Grief Over Air Crash

BK250434 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, has expressed a deep sense of shock over the Air India jumbo crash. The Akali Dal president, Mr Longowal, has said he shares the grief of the whole nation over the tragic loss of lives in the air crash. The Communist Party of India [CPI] and the CPI-M have also expressed shock at the tragic event.

Agriculture Minister on Wheat Exports to USSR

BK250448 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] India is in a position to export at least 10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains during the current year. The minister of state for agriculture, Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, told newsmen in Patna that 2 lakh tonnes of wheat has already been dispatched to the Soviet Union under an agreement to export 5 lakh tonnes during the current year. He added that another 1 lakh tonnes of wheat is being exported to African countries.

Punjab Assembly Dissolved on Completion of Term

BK260406 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] The Punjab legislative assembly stands dissolved from today after having completed its 5-year term. The assembly, which had its inaugural meeting on the 27th of June 1980, had remained under suspended animation since October 1983.

This follows the imposition of president's rule in state in the face of the resignation of the ministry headed by Mr Darbara Singh in view of the deteriorating law and order situation.

Defense Ministry Denies Indian Border Clash

BK251745 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense has said that there has been no clash between Pakistan and Indian armed forces in Siachen Glacier area since July last year. He was commenting on a report of an Indian correspondent on Sunday broadcast by the BBC alleging that fighting had taken place in the area last month. The spokesman recalled that three flag meetings had taken place over last year between the local commanders of the two sides with an objective of preventing recurrence of any clash or exchange of sporadic firing in the area. The Pakistan Government, he added, was persevering in pursuing a policy of peaceful solution of problems, he added.

Prime Minister Sees Envoys of ROK, Hungary, India

BK260402 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The ambassadors of the Republic of Korea, Hungary, and the outgoing Indian ambassador called on the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, in Rawalpindi today. The ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr Chin Yong-hong, conveyed regards of the prime minister, Mr No Sin-yong, to Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, on his assumption of office. He extended an invitation to the prime minister to visit the Republic of Korea. The prime minister accepted the invitation. The prime minister hoped that bilateral relations between the two countries would be enlarged in different fields, such as science, technology, and industrial joint ventures.

The ambassador of Hungary, Dr Karoly Kovacs, spoke about the steady growth in bilateral relations between his country and Pakistan in various sectors. The prime minister extended an invitation to the Hungarian prime minister to visit Pakistan.

The prime minister and the outgoing Indian ambassador, Mr K.D. Sharma, who made a farewell call, reviewed the present state of relations between the two countries. The prime minister reiterated the desire of the government and the people of Pakistan for tension-free cooperation and good neighborly relations with India. He asked the ambassador to convey this to the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. The prime minister also expressed satisfaction at the encouraging trend in Pak-India relations and expressed the hope that the forthcoming meeting of the Pakistan-India joint commission would yield positive results for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. He asked the ambassador to convey to the Indian prime minister his best wishes and warm regards.

Meets With Outgoing DPRK Ambassador

BK260404 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] The outgoing ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Pakistan, Yu Song-chin, called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi yesterday. The outgoing ambassador extended his heartfelt congratulations to the prime minister on his assumption of the high office.

In reply, the prime minister asked the envoy to convey his heartfelt and personal feelings for the health and happiness of the DPRK's great leader, President Kim Il-song, and other prominent leader Kim Chong-il.

Karachi Reports End of Afghan Talks in Geneva

BK250251 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] The fourth round of UN-sponsored indirect talks on a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem has concluded in Geneva. This was announced by a UN spokesman in Geneva yesterday.

The spokesman said the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, will address a news conference today.

Diego Cordovez held talks separately with Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the foreign minister of the Kabul regime, Shah Mohammad Dost, yesterday.

It is understood that during the talks the two sides explained their positions on the revised draft and the four instruments of the proposed agreement.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan hosted a lunch in honor of Diego Cordovez yesterday and met for an hour with him on the occasion for discussions.

Special Security Squads Set Up in Sind

BK251607 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Special squads comprising chief officials of various law enforcement agencies will be set up in Sind to prevent the illegal entry of citizens from other countries.

BANGLADESH

Reportage on Visit of Iranian Minister

Arrives 25 Jun

BK250331 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] A special envoy of the Iranian president arrived in Dhaka today on a visit to Bangladesh. The envoy, the deputy foreign minister of Iran, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, will meet President Ershad.

Meanwhile, the Red Crescent Society of Iran has sent a cargo jet with relief goods for the cyclone-affected people of the coastal areas of Bangladesh. The Iranian ambassador, Mr Mohammad Mehdi Akhund-Zadeh, formally handed over the relief goods to the chairman of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society, Major General Abdul Jabbar, in Dhaka yesterday. The goods included rice, wheat, tents, [words indistinct] and medicine. The goods are the first consignment of the donation made by the Iranian Red Cross Society.

Earlier, the charge d'affaires of the Hungarian Embassy handed over a consignment of medicines to the chairman of the Bangladesh Red Cross Society for the cyclone victims. The medicines are worth $40,000.

Arrival Statement

LD252103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Heading a delegation, our country's deputy foreign affairs minister left New Dehli and arrived in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. He is carrying a message from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to General Ershad, the president of Bangladesh.

In a brief interview with a correspondent of the BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY at Dhaka Airport, he said: I have undertaken this trip in order to deliver a message to President Ershad; to explain issues of the region, particularly in connection with the imposed war; to express, once again, our sympathy and sorrow on the recent cyclone devastation in Bangladesh; and in order to present the gifts of the people of Iran to the Muslim people of Bangladesh.

Further Details

LD252109 Tehran IRNA in English 1827 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Dhaka, June 25, IRNA — Iranian people gave the proper response to Saddam's crimes when they held massive demonstrations on the International Qods Day, Iran's deputy foreign minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said Tuesday upon his arrival at Dhaka's airport. Speaking to a BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY reporter, Besharati reiterated that the Islamic Republic is not a warmonger but is always ready to defend its revolution as well as its territorial integrity.

The Iranian deputy minister is here to hand a message from President Khamene'i to his counterpart, Hussain Mohammad Ershad. He reiterated Iran's sympathetic feelings towards the people in that country who were recently afflicted by a cyclone.

Besharati also expressed satisfaction over the bilateral relations between the two countries, saying that the Islamic Republic is ready to expand its ties with Bangladesh in every field.

SRI LANKA

Trincomalee Curfew Lifted; No Incidents in Jaffna

BK260640 Colombo SUN in English 21 Jun 85 p 1

[By Nissanka Karunaratne]

[Text] In the continuing process of restoring Sri Lanka's strifetorn north and east to normal, the government yesterday lifted the curfew imposed last month in the Trincomalee district and announced that all fishermen in the province could go back to sea, "unhindered and without time limitations." Official sources in Trincomalee told *SUN* yesterday that as an initial step to restoring normalcy in the area, the military co-ordinating office had given instructions to repair all roads damaged in recent incidents of violence. "We can start the normal bus services, once the roads are repaired," a senior military official in Trincomalee told *SUN* yesterday.

SUN learnt that naval engineers were dispatched yesterday to Kuchchively, to repair a bridge on the Trincomalee-Kuchchively road that was blasted by terrorists two weeks ago. Several craters created in the roads by terrorist landmines will also be filled up.

Meanwhile in Jaffna town, white flags signifying peace were hoisted, and for the first time in the last four years, an unarmed party of soldiers went shopping in the Jaffna bazaar. Under usual circumstances, the Army does not come into the Jaffna town without an armed escort.

A government official in Jaffna told *SUN* over the telephone that while more vehicles are now on the roads after the fuel restrictions were lifted, it would take some time to restore the bus services because of "bad road conditions". "We will have to fill up a large number of craters caused by terrorist landmines before we can normalise road transport," he said.

Police reports reaching Colombo last morning said there were no incidents in Batticaloa, except for the accidental death of Air Force Wing Commander Eksith Peiris while on a training exercise. The reports also said the situation of refugees in the Trincomalee district remains the same.

Clash Mars Start of Cease-Fire's 2d Week

HK250657 Hong Kong AFP in English 0619 GMT 25 Jun 85

[By Neville De Silva]

[Text] Colombo, June 25 (AFP) — A cease-fire between five major militant Tamil separatist groups and Sri Lankan govern-

ment forces entered its second week today with only one clash reported from the troubled northern and eastern provinces, official sources said.

High ranking security sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that a militant was killed yesterday when separatists shot at soldiers taking a sick colleague to hospital for treatment in the northwestern Mannar district and the troops returned the fire. The separatists were travelling in a stolen vehicle, the sources said. The other fled, leaving the vehicle and self loading rifles. A sub-machine gun was found beside the dead separatist, the sources said.

Security sources suspect that the group was from the Tamil Eelam army, one of 35 militant Tamil separatist groups. It had not indicated acceptance of the cease-fire announced by National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali last Tuesday.

The militants have been waging an 11-year fight for an independent Tamil state in the north and east. They claim discrimination at the hands of the majority Sinhala Government.

The minister had said that five major groups — the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students — had accepted a "cessation of hostile incidents." The other 30 groups did not seem to have "gotten the message," the security minister said at the time of the announcement.

Mr Athulathmudali said that these were minor or splinter groups, and the security forces would take "counter action" if they created any hostile incidents. High-ranking security sources told AFP that yesterday's incident should not be regarded as major breach of the cease-fire. "Not every terrorist group or terrorist likes to end hostilities. So they are likely to create incidents. But our response should be adequate to meet the immediate situation and should not be an overreaction," a source said.

The cease-fire was followed by a relaxation of a 9-hour curfew in the northern province and the easing of some other restrictions, but there have been no signs of any negotiations leading to a political settlement involving the granting of greater autonomy to the predominantly Tamil areas.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil party, was to meet opposition parties on the autonomy matter in the past week but had to put off the meetings as two delegates from Jaffna had not arrived in Colombo due to the non-resumption of train service to Jaffna, TULF sources said.

The sources said that if the two former TULF parliamentarians failed to turn up then other members would begin meeting opposition groups this week, starting with the Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

The train service was interrupted when militant separatists blew up 90 feet (27 meters) of rail track and a small bridge a few days before the cease-fire became effective.

Observers here said that political negotiations needed to get under way quickly or the Tamils might view the respite as a chance for the government to strengthen the security forces to meet a possible renewed challenge by the militants.

Government, Tamils To Begin Talks in Bhutan

HK251454 Hong Kong AFP in English 1429 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP) — The Indian Government has begun arranging secret talks in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan between the Sri Lankan Government and Sri Lankan Tamil militants, *THE TELEGRAPH* newspaper reported today. The talks are due to be held before a three-month cease-fire between Sri Lankan Government forces and Tamil separatist guerrillas expires, the report said.

THE TELEGRAPH, quoting sources in the southern Indian city of Madras, said the Sri Lankan Government was likely to be represented by either President Junius Jayewardene or National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, or both.

The Indian government has decided on Thimpu, capital of Bhutan, as the venue for the talks, the newspaper said. It said the main reason was that Thimphu, being so isolated, would provide an atmosphere in which participants would not be under extraneous pressure.

The government of Sri Lanka is expected to table a concrete and well defined formula for the devolution of power to Tamil areas of Sri Lanka by the end of the ceasefire, the paper added.

Members of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority community have been campaigning for greater autonomy for Tamil areas in the north and west of the island, while Tamil sepaeratist guerrillas have been fighting for an independent Tamil state in these areas.

A cease-fire between Sri Lankan Government forces and five major Tamil separtist groups began on June 18, since when only one clash has been reported.

Further Details

BK200904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government is to hold preliminary talks with the representatives of the Tamil United Liberation Front and the Tamil militant groups very soon at the Bhutanese capital Thimpu in a bid to resolve the ethnic problem. This was announced by the cabinet spokesman and the minister of state, Mr Anandatissa de Alwis, in Colombo today. Speaking to newsmen after a cabinet meeting, he said the government delegation chosen by President Jayewardene will leave for Bhutan shortly. He said the Government of India will provide facilities by transport to all the delegates. The minister also said the talks were arranged by the Sri Lankan missions in New Delhi and Madras.

The government's decision to hold talks follows cessation of hostilities between Tamil militants and security forces. The

cease-fire and the forthcoming talks are a direct outcome of the recent Delhi summit between Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Mr Jayewardene.

Tamils Express Doubt About Cease-Fire Motivation

HK251526 Hong Kong AFP in English 1502 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 25 (AFP) — The Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) have warned that they will resume the armed struggle after a cease-fire announced two weeks ago by Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said today.

The LTTE leader, V. Prirabhakaran said his group would honour the cease-fire for 12 weeks in respect for India's mediation, buthoped that India would realise that the Sri Lankan Government was not interested in a "just political solution," PTI said in a dispatch from Madras.

He said that the Sri Lankan Government would never grant autonomy for northern and eastern Sri Lanka as demanded by Tamil militants, and warned that "the LTTE would not be trapped in a quagmire of talks leading nowhere or lay down arms and seek amnesty."

Tamil militants have been waging an 11-year fight for an independent Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka, saying that they are discriminated against by the Sinhala majority.

The LTTE is one of five groups comprising the ENLF (Eelam National Liberation Front) which have offices in Madras in southern India. Sri Lankan Security Minister Mr. Athulathmudali has said the ENLF had accepted a "cessation of hostile incidents."

The LTTE leader today urged the Indian Government to support the Sri Lankan Tamils' "right to self-determination", PTI said, adding that "it is only in the Eelam state that Tamils could live with freedom, self-respect and peace," PTI said.

He claimed that the Sri Lankan Government had sought a cease-fire because of a weak army, deteriorating economy and counter-terrorism against the Sinhalese, PTI said.

Majlis Speaker Briefs Khomeyni on Libya, Syria Trip

LD251312 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, met with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning on his return from his trips to Libya and Syria.

He briefed the commander in chief on the outcome of his visits to these two countries.

Majlis Speaker on Palestinians, Hijack, Visits

LD250959 Tehran IRAN in English 0944 GMT 25 Jun 85

["Rafsanjani: America Not Fool Enough To Attack Iran" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday [24 June] referred to the future of the Palestinian aspiration and said that in his opinion, the main danger facing the issue of Palestine is the compromising spirit of "unqualified representatives" of Palestine itself. Speaking at a press conference in Damascus on the last day of his visit to Syria Monday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that if the Palestinians do not put down their arms, no danger will threaten them.

On the recent developments in Lebanon pertaining to the issue of Palestine, the Majlis speaker noted that armed struggle should be maintained as the thesis for all Palestinians. He added that if Palestinian leaders continued the war with a spirit like that of King Husayn of Jordan or Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt, the issue of Palestine will remain in its unpleasant present situation forever.

Asked on Iran's cooperation in the renovation of Palestinian camps, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will render any help it can. "The motto of the Islamic Revolution of Iran has been, and still is, to support the Palestinian people. On the International Jerusalem Day some 10 days ago, about five million people in Tehran, while Iraqi bombs and missiles targeted Iranian cities, chanted slogans for the liberation of Jerusalem and the Palestinians."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani rejected allegations attributed to him as saying that the Amal movement was a subservient of the Zionists, and noted he had said that the Zionists, imperialists and Arab reactionaries had been involved in the incidents of the Palestinian camps. He said that it was not the Amal which was involved, but rather those who were trading in the blood of Lebanese and Palestinian people.

On the possibility of the U.S. military intervention in Iran in case negotiations with the hijackers of the American TWA airliner failed, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he did not expect the U.S. to be stupid to that extent. "Possibly, the U.S. has understood that Iran has nothing to do with the hijacking. But if under this pretext it intends to confront Iran, past experience has shown that the U.S. has stated the danger of such a confrontation," the Majlis speaker said.

As long as lackeys such as Saddam Husayn of Iraq served the U.S., there was no reason for its direct involvement, he said, noting that in fact Iran prefered to confront the U.S. rather than the Iraqi Army which was composed of Muslims of the Third World.

Referring back to the issue of the hijacked American plane, the Majlis speaker said that the U.S. was used to attributing any act of Muslims in Lebanon to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The U.S. will be pleased with Iran when it explicitly condemns the hijackers but if Iran intends to denounce anything it should first condemn the U.S. and the Zionist regime as the roots of oppression, he said.

He stressed that Iran was against any terroristic act but added that the issue of hijacking should not be separated from the blast at a mosque in Lebanon, or the disruption of peace there by Antoine Lahd's forces. "The main center of terrorism is in Paris and Washington and the clue to all terroristic acts rests in the Elysee Palace and the White House."

On his talks in Libya, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that he discussed with Libyan officials important matters of mutual interest including the Iraqi-imposed war, the future of Iraq after the downfall of the present regime, and the continuation of armed struggles of Palestinians against the Zionists.

On the outcome of his visit to Syria, the Majlis speaker said that he held fruitful talks with the Syrian president, noting that Syria is a strong fort against the aggression of Zionist and imperialism in the region. Iran should cooperate with Syria at all sensitive moments, he said.

Majlis Speaker Warns Lebanese Against Divisive Plots

LD251338 Tehran IRNA in English 1123 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Monday called on the Lebanese people to refrain from being involved in plots hatched to sow discord among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims and urged them to target their weapons at the Zionist enemy.

In a message broadcast on Sowt-al-Mostazafin radio [Voice of the Oppressed; as received] on the last day of his stay in Syria, Rafsanjani announced the overall support of Iran for the Lebanese Muslims.

He said that Iranians, under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, are present in all fronts for the materialization of the aspirations of Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims. He recalled the massive demonstrations on the International Jerusalem Day in which millions of Iranians took part throughout the country. On that day, he added, people in Tehran and in border cities under Iraqi shelling, bombing and missile attacks shouted "Death to Israel, death to America" while supporting the Islamic and anti-Zionist movement of the Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims.

Warning the Lebanese people against plots designed by Zionists and imperialists to sow discord among Muslims, Rafsanjani said

that unity among Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims was the only factor which could protect them against their enemies.

He castigated the compromising cries of a handful of opportunists in the ranks of the Lebanese people and stressed that they should not lay down their weapons, assuring them of Iran's assistance. "Although we are presently involved in a war imposed on us by the U.S. through Saddam (Husayn, the Iraqi dictator), still we will not hesitate in providing you with assitance. No doubt, after the war is ended and Saddam is overthrown, we will give priority to the issue of Palestine and Lebanon, as well as the annihilation of the usurper Zionists," Rafsanjani said.

Of course, he added, weapons should be in the hands of resolute and not compromising people, in the hands of those who fight for Islam and not for ruling over a patch of land.

Majlis Speaker Comments on Damascus, Tripoli Talks

LD251817 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that both Syria and Libya fully endorse Iran's terms for an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Rafsanjani who was speaking at a press conference here upon the conclusion of a five-day official visit to Damascus and Tripoli with Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and minister of IRGC Mohsen Rafiqhdust said his talks with the two "friendly" countries had led to a better coordination of "joint efforts for exploiting the potential resources of the three countries in the imposed war."

The Majlis speaker who headed an Iranian delegation to the two capitals said the issue of the Iraqi Government having been the aggressor party in the Iraq-Iran war has long since been established and that therefore the Islamic government would not approve the formation of an international tribunal for the purpose of identifying the aggressor party in the conflict. He said any tribunal to be entrusted with the task of jurisdiction on the issue should accept as a basic undeniable fact that Iraq has been the aggressor party in the conflict, and that as such the tribunal shall be invested with authority to decide on the type and manner of punishing the Baghdad regime. He said once and if [as received] members of any such tribunal have been selected upon consulation with the Islamic government, Iran would not then try to dictate its opinion on how the aggressor party must be punished. He said insofar as the Islamic Republic is concerned the idea of exploring diplomatic channels for an end to the war is quite beside the point since among other reasons "no aggressor would consent to his being punished as a result of decisions reached by diplomatic channels."

Speaking on the recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war he said the massive rallies throughout the country on the Qods Day (June 14th) had obviously demonstrated that Saddam Husayn's ideas of a psychological war with Iran had proved a total failure. He added that the June 14th rallies in Iran had also proved that insofar as the idea of coping with the war is concerned there is absolutely no difference of outlooks between the masses and the Islamic government. He said, however, that the enemies of the Islamic Republic have not yet abandoned their schemes for a continued psychological war with Iran and that in all likelihood they had other substitute schemes for attaining their wishful goals.

Asked why in his opinion the Iraqi Government had halted aerial attacks against towns and cities in Iran he said the Baghdad government might be considering various alternatives as substitute schemes for its fruitless air raids in Iran. He said despite knowledge about future moves of the Baghdad government the Islamic government would not divulge its information in this respect since its disclosure might prompt Baghdad to change its tactics solely for disproving Iran's forecasts of Iraq's plans.

Velayati Reports to Khamene'i on Libya, Syria Visits

LD251627 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i received Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, Tuesday morning. At this meeting, Dr. Velayati presented a report on the talks held by the Iranian delegation on its recent visit to Libya and Syria.

Cabinet Session Hears Velayati Report on Visits

LD261055 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 26, IRNA — The Cabinet ministers, presided over by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, met here Wednesday morning [26 June]. During the session, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who recently accompanied Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Libya and Syria, outlined the result of his visit to the Cabinet.

Describing his talks with the officials of the two countries as "completely successful", Velayati said that the main objective of the visit was to achieve a coordinated and unified stance on recent developments in Lebanon, on the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, and on issues pertaining to the region and the Middle East.

Iran and Libya concluded an agreement for the establishment of a joint political-military committee which will meet in either of the countries once in a while, Velayati noted.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Visit Japan 1 July

GF260526 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker, will pay an official visit to Japan at the invitation of Japanese Government 1-5 July. A high-ranking delegation will accompany him on his trip. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani will meet the Japanese emperor, prime minister, and other high-ranking Japanese officials during his trip and will discuss bilateral relations and important international issues. He will be the highest-ranking Iranian official to visit Japan since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Pakistan To Increase Oil Imports From Iran

LD251539 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Islamabad, June 25, IRNA — While the news of a visit by a high-ranking Pakistani trade delegation to Iran next week was announced Tuesday [25 June], informed economic sources here indicated that Pakistan would like to increase her oil imports from Iran by 10,000 bpd to 20,000 bpd. The delegation will be headed by the Pakistani Minister of Commerce, Oil and Mineral Resources Mr. Salim Saifullah Khan who on Monday met with the Iranian ambassador to Pakistan, Mir Mahmud Musavi.

Following the meeting, Musavi told IRNA that during its three-day visit to Iran, talks will be held to discuss increasing Iran's oil exports to Pakistan as well as the expansion of trade ties between the two countries. Land transportation and the Iran-Pakistan Joint Shipping Co. will also be among topics which will be reviewed in these talks.

Tehran Attacks U.S. Concept of Terrorism

GF251422 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Unattributed commentary: "Civilized Terrorism and Savage Terrorism"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, at a time when the Lebanese Muslims were about to resolve the fraticide that began in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon on the eve of the sacred Radaman festival, an abhorring blast rocked Tripoli, the capital of north Lebanon, killing 80 people and wounding over 100 others. Reports say that as a result of the explosion, which was caused by about 100 kilos of explosives, the festive mood of the Muslim people turned into one of grudge and hatred against the criminals. The crime was so disgusting that no group claimed responsibility for it. However, is there anyone who is not aware of the presence of the CIA's and Mossad's disgusting hand in the incident?

THE WASHINGTON POST, which usually reflects the disclosures and views of the U.S. officials, has admitted this. It has written that the CIA set up a strike force in Beirut and caused the [words indistinct] blast with a view to taking revenge from the Lebanese Hezbollahi — the reason being the CIA conviction that the attacks on the U.S. Embassy and the command headquarters of the U.S. forces in Lebanon were carried out by the Hezbollahi. Obviously, the U.S. Administration feels no shame in disclosing that it is countering terrorist acts with more violent acts of terrorism.

In a statement he made in Texas, which is renown for its livestock breeding, the headman of the U.S. Administration, Reagan, described the hijackers of the U.S. passenger aircraft as uncivilized savages who have taken Western civilization as their target. But what kind of a civilization is the Western civilization which assumes a humane character only when the interests of the United States and the rest of the Western world in general are threatened? Obviously, those who describe themselves as civilized and others as savages have never considered their humanitarian feelings outside the framework of racism and nationalism.

Therefore, things would have been better if Reagan, who described the hijackers in Lebanon as savage and uncivilized, had found another name for those who have attacked mosques, cities, and shrines in Lebanon and who have caused explosions resulting in the death and wounding of hundreds of defenseless people in that country. Maybe it could be that these civilized entities are committing such crimes for the sake of safeguarding freedom and democracy. The rulers of the United States and the Western world should remember that if terrorism is bad it is so for everyone.

Tehran Views Khamene'i Message to World Leaders

GF251944 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Within the framework of a major political move Iran is undertaking, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i has sent messages to scores of world leaders. In these messages, he stated Iran's firm stand on the war which has been launched against the Muslim people of Iran.

Khamene'i also outlined the dimensions of the ugly crime the Saddam regime perpetrated on Jerusalem Day when this regime turned its back on human values and Islamic considerations and raided thousands of demonstrations with its devastating missiles and planes. Nearly 600 people were martyred. This crime requires every Muslim in this world to pause and adopt a stand on the Saddam regime whose crimes on that day exceeded all the brutality and vileness humanity has ever known.

In view of these considerations, the president held all Muslim countries responsible for decisively countering such savage crimes which are being openly committed. This put Muslim countries face to face with the legitimate fight against the aggressor. In order to define the aggressor one needs only to ask who started this war, who started the war of the cities, and who is behind every aggression being committed in our Islamic region.

Answering these questions is easy and requires only courage to set things right. In these mssages, Khamene'i referred to the nature of the Muslim Iranian people and the relationship between these people and their legitimate leadership through the momentum of the masses who congregated in millions and filled the streets of Tehran and other Iranian cities, even cities subjected to brutal missile attacks.

Jerusalem Day was a test for the genuineness of this people. It was a test of the degree of revolutionary vehemence by millions of our people. If some governments and countries have not understood our people, then Jerusalem Day is an opportune occasion for reevaluation and to set things right. The masses of the revolution are these millions of people who went out on Jerusalem Day, paying no attention to death and ignoring Saddam's planes and missiles on one of the hardest days of fasting. These millions will be the ones to decide on war. Their decision is indisputably clear: to continue the war until martyrdom because there is no other way and because they have no more valuable thing than martyrdom or victory.

Majlis Passes Bills on Presidential Elections

LD251258 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — The Iranian Parliament (Majlis) passed two bills on presidential elections and the limits of presidential powers in its open session Tuesday [25 June].

A bill on the supervision of the Guardian Council over the forthcoming presidential elections was discussed after a report on the bill by the spoksman for the inter-Majlis committee. It later received enough votes for approval. The bill on "the responsibilities of the president and the limitations of his powers" was also approved.

Earlier in the session, Majlis deputies from Sahraye, west of Tehran and Babol Sar in Mazandaran Province, spoke about the needs of their constituencies and the recent Jerusalem Day demonstrations.

Majlis speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, just back from a visit to Libya and Syria, arrived in time to chair the later parts of the proceedings. He spoke in detail about the June 28, 1981 bombing of the headquarters of the Islamic Republican Party in which 25 Majlis deputies were martyred.

Islamic Affairs Supervisor in Kordestan Appointed

LD251236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Following the resignation of Mohammad Ashrafi-Esfahani from his duties as the supervisor of Islamic missionary and cultural affairs of Paveh and Uramanat region in Kordestan because of his duties as Majlis deputy from Bakhtaran, Ayatollah Montazeri thanked him for his services and then asked Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi, the imam's representative in Kordestan, to supervise these affairs in Paveh and Uramanat as he is supervising the religious and cultural affairs of Sunni theologians in Kordestan region on the orders of Imam Khomeyni. He has been asked to organize and manage the cultural and missionary affairs of the Sunni clergymen of that region as well as possible and in coordination with the clergy and ulema of Bakhtaran Province as well as other parts of Kordestan.

Five Large Chemical Plants To Be Constructed

LD241736 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA — A sum of three and a half billion rials (about thirty five million dollars) has been allocated for constructing five large chemical plants, the deputy minister of industries in charge of chemical sector, Mr Bakhshi said Monday. The investment is a part of the Islamic Republic's efforts for advancing the industries as well as attaining self-sufficiency, Bakhshi said.

On the domestic need for raw materials, he said that the imported materials were of 1,700 different kinds, of which the government has agreed in principle to import 200. [Sentence as received]

More than one thousand industrial units have received operating permits so far of which 300 units are to produce chemical and mineral materials. These units will save the government a sum of four hundred million dollars in foreign exchange from its total yearly expenditure currently standing at two billion dollars on chemicals purchases from abroad.

Supreme Defense Council Meets 25 June

LD252113 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] During today's session of the Supreme Defense Council, the latest developments of the imposed war and situation of the battle of the combatants of Islam were discussed, and views were exchanged. In the course of the session, which was chaired by President Khamene'i, president of the Supreme Defense Council, and attended by a group of military commanders and other members of the council, the style of confrontation of the Warriors of Islam against the Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist mercenaries, issues related to air defense, and planned programs were discussed and evaluated.

Further Reportage, Comment on War With Iraq

Cities Shelled by Iraqis

GF251502 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] According to our correspondent, the resistant cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were targets of heavy fire and long-range artillery by the hirelings of the Iraqi regime during the past 24 hours. Five houses were destroyed in Abadan and one area in the city caught fire.

Retaliation for Attacks on Cities

LD251624 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Tuesday dismissed Iraq's denial for attacking the Iranian city of Abadan and attempting to attack several othern Iranian cities, adding that the Iraqi regime, by denying its attack on Abadan, and attempted attacks on several other cities, and by falsely claiming that Iran has attacked Iraqi cities, is trying to prepare the political ground for its own possible future action.

"The combatants of Islam, after retaliating the Iraqi attacks on Iran's residential areas on the International Qods Day (June 14), have stopped all retaliatory attacks as of last Sunday (June 16), but our forces are fully ready to retaliate if such attacks are resumed by the Iraqi regime," the spokesman said.

The WIH spokesman referred to a report dispatched Monday by the official IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in which the Iraqi attack on the city of Abadan as well as attempted attacks on the cities of Sanandaj, Piranshah and Sardasht were denied, and said the evidence of Iraq's attempted attacks as well as the damages

caused by their attack on Abadan are so strong that they do not leave any room for doubt.

"The Iraqi regime, due to the despicable nature of these attacks, cannot do anything but to deny them," he added.

"The Iraqi regime, through spreading such lies and claiming Iranian attacks against several Iraqi residential areas over the past two weeks, is trying to find pretexts for itself and wants to prepare the political grounds for the resumption of its attacks on Iran's residential areas and violate the most basic conventions of war through its barbaric acts," he said.

He concluded by emphasising the readiness of the Iranian combatants to retaliate strongly the enemy's attacks on the residential areas of Iran. "We can announce that Baghdad will be responsible for the outcome of our retaliatory actions," he said.

Communique No 2,145

LD251636 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA - Communique No 2145 issued Tuesday by the Joint Staff Command of the Iranian Armed Forces said exchange of fire continued over the past 24 hours in the Sardasht, Haj 'Umran and Marivan operational regions with Sardasht region seeing the heaviest fire as a result of which the enemy suffered heavy casualties and damages.

In the western operational region, exchange of fire was reported over the past 24 hours resulting in the destruction of five bunkers and observation posts of the enemy as well as one tank, four vehicles and one 106-mm gun with a number of crews being either killed or wounded.

In the southern fronts too, exchange of fire went on over the past 24 hours with Musian region seeing the heaviest exchange resulting in some damages and casualties on the enemy. The communique added that on June 23, enemy patrol units tried to penetrate into Iranian positions near Meymeh River, but were repulsed by the Iranian forces.

On the Arvand Rud front, combatants of the gendarmerie checked enemy engineering activities, killing or wounding three Iraqi troops, and destroying nine bunkers and one ammunition dump.

The cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr witnessed sporadic exchange of fire as a result of which, a fire broke out in Khorramshahr causing minor damages.

Groups Leave for Front

LD260900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 26 Jun 85

[Text] A Central News Unit correspondent reports that a group of people from the "Labbayk ya Khomeyni" plan and the mobilization force of Bojnurd left for the fronts of the imposed war after a ceremony. Also, a large group from the mobilization force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, "Labbayk ya Khomeyni" plan, from Kerman, Hormozgan, Eastern Azarbayjan Provinces and the towns of Shiraz, Kashan, Golara, Rafsanjan, Baft, Sirjan, Bojnurd, Fereydun Kenar, Mahmudabad, Bafq, Nur, Qa'em Shahr, Saved Kuh, Babol, Neka, Behshahr, Langarud, Chamkhaleh, Boyerahmad, Gachsaran, Dehdasht and (Lavanat), in Yazd and Fars Provinces left their towns with an emotional send off by the people and went to the fronts of the war against the Zionist enemy.

The same report indicates that a group of technical and services staff including mechanics, panel beaters, welders, drivers, electricians, civil engineers and other popular forces from Semnan, Mahdishahr, Shahmirzad, Sorkheh, Zahedan, Zabol, and Khash left for the war zones of our country.

Radio Iran Reports Bomb Explosion in Tehran

GF251620 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 25 Jun 85

[Text] At 1545 yesterday a very powerful bomb exploded in Tehran's Jaleh crossroads and dragged a group of pedestrians through the blood and mud. The number of casualties in this heartbreaking incident is still not known. It is said that the Islamic Republic caused the incident to create fear and to find a new excuse to put pressure on political prisoners. This is the second explosion which has occured within the past few days in Tehran. The first explosion killed at least two people and an unspecified number of others were wounded.

At the conclusion of this report it has been mentioned that following yesterday's explosion, Revolutionary Guards patrol units and members of the Islamic revolutionary committees closed all roads leading to the Jaleh crossroads. They prevented the rush of people to the explosion site.

Our reporter says according to witnesses this bomb was meant to be planted in another area of Tehran but it exploded suddenly after it was taken out of the central headquarters' building of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee.

NVOI Assails Lack of Response To End War With Iraq

TA251537 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Unattributed commentary: "The War's End Means the Death of Khomeyni's Demagogic and Bloody Regime"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: Some time ago Mr Andrey Gromyko, the Soviet Union's foreign minister, during a meeting with a delegation from the Arab League, once again explained the stances of the Soviet Government on the destructive Iran-Iraq war. He said: From the outbreak of the war, the Soviet Union has consistently striven for an immediate end to the war and for the settlement of issues of dispute through peaceful means. He said: The war's prolongation is inconsistent both with the interests of the Iraqi and Iranian nations and with the aim of the closing of Arab ranks in the face of Israel's continued agression which enjoys the support of the United States. This conflict

seriously harms the aspiration of peace and security in the Middle East.

Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Union's foreign minister, also pointed out that the Soviet Union will exert all efforts to assist in the resolution of the dispute, and will support international efforts in this connection, including those within the framework of the United Nations. He noted that the Soviet side is not allowing imperialist forces to exploit the situation arising from the Iran-Iraq war as a pretext to interfere in the affairs of the countries of this region.

Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India and chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, during his speech in the parliament of that country announced that from the standpoint of ferocity the Iran-Iraq war is one of the most savage wars after World War II. He said: We have taken various steps with the leaders of other countries to end the war, but unfortunately one cannot see an end to the war.

The explicit and clear views of two great international figures from two great neighboring countries of Iran regarding the destructive war desired by America run precisely in the direction desired by our homeland's calamity-stricken people. However, the leaders of Khomeyni's Islamic regime, without paying the slightest heed to our homeland's public opinion and to the recommendations of Iran's neighbors and progressive mankind to put a speedy end to the destructive Iran-Iraq war, are still talking with intransigence about their decision to continue the war.

For this reason the people are determined to continue their struggle against the war and against Khomeyni's inhuman and warmongering regime. By struggling against the war, the noble Iranian people are defending their existence, their homeland, the lives of their children and dear ones, and their national culture, customs, and traditions. One should rise with utmost power in defense of peace and against the war, and consider that the war's end and the establishment of peace will mean the death of Khomeyni's Islamic regime.